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Time Allocation between Employment and Household Tasks in Japan

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Objectives

- In the context of changes in the labor market, family value orientations & the marriage market, I show:
 - (1) how Japanese couples reconcile their household and labor-market roles;
 - (2) how employment/housework is structured by family & socioeconomic situations;
 - (3) how the family-work interface change over time.

Data

(1) 3 cross-sectional national family surveys of women & men age 20-49/59 in 1994, 2000 & 2009

--I focus on currently married women & men aged 20-49 and their spouses. The 3 cross-sectional surveys include 1242, 2443 & 1665 such couples, respectively.

(2) 2000 survey & its follow-up in 2009

--I use the panel data from 1299 couples in 2000 who stayed married in 2009, & from 847 never-married persons in 2000 who were either never-married or currently married in 2009.

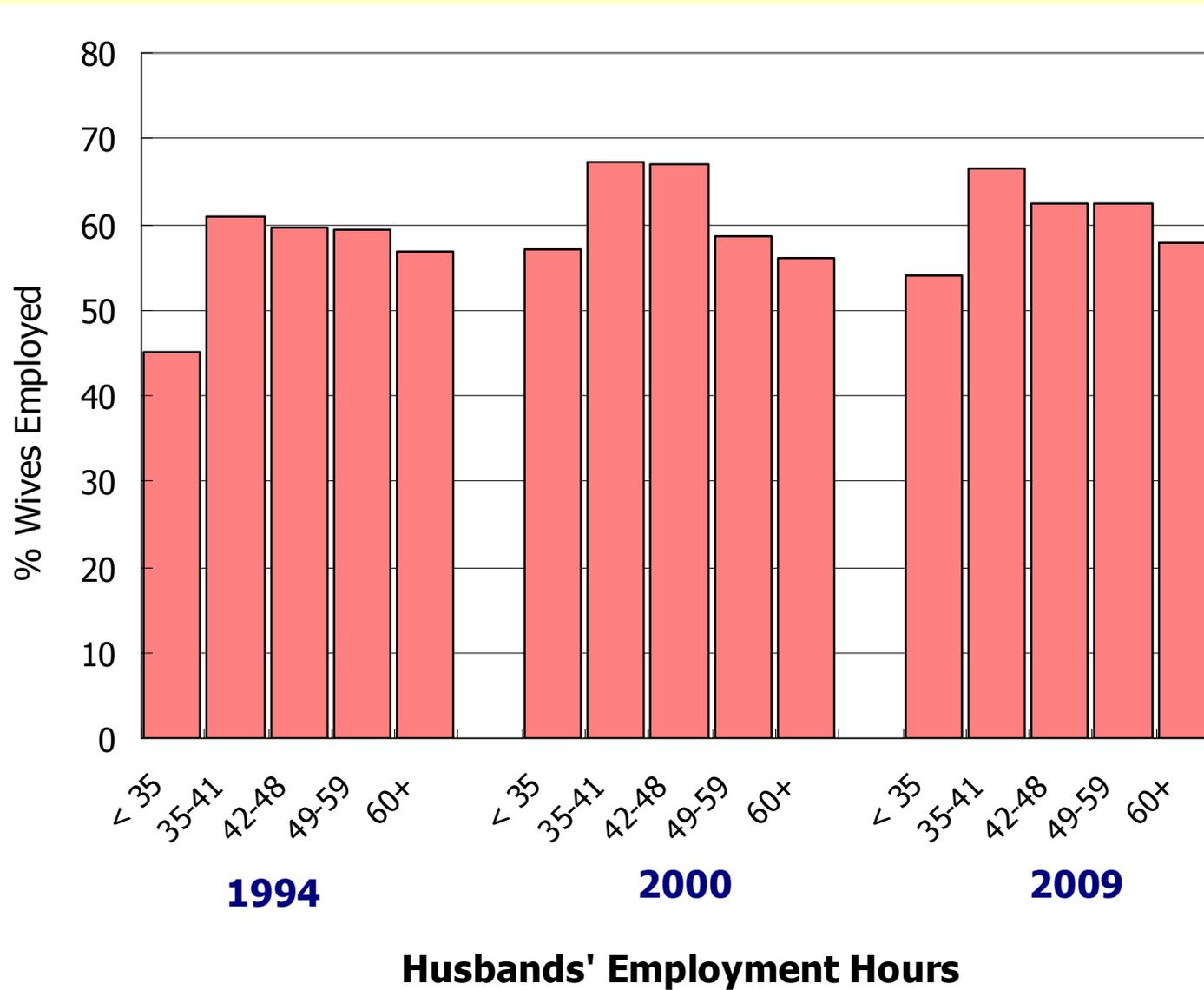
Couples' Labor-Market Activities

- (1) Employment Hours per Week
- (2) Socioeconomic & Family Differentials in Wives' Employment
 - a) Employment rate (% wives employed)
 - b) Mean work hours of employed wives

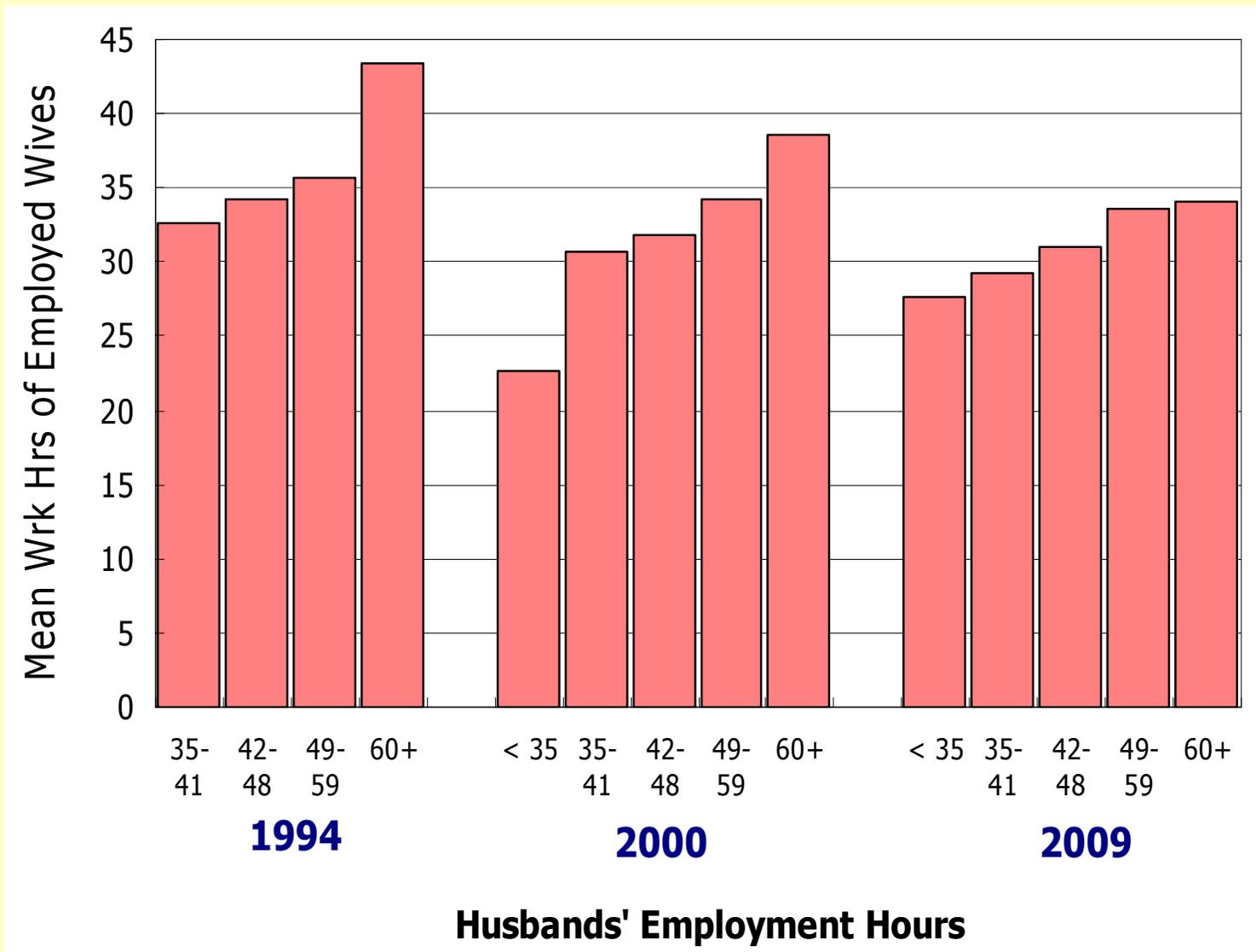
% Distribution on Work Hours per Week: Japanese Wives & Husbands Aged 20-49

	Wives			Husbands		
	1994	2000	2009	1994	2000	2009
Not employed	42	38	38	1	1	2
Employed:						
15 or less	7	9	9	3	3	3
16-34	17	21	22	1	2	2
35-41	13	16	15	14	16	13
42-48	12	10	10	30	30	29
49-59	5	4	5	29	28	30
60 or more	4	2	1	23	19	22
Mean hours of those employed	35.8	33.1	32.0	51.0	49.9	50.2
(N)	(1236)	(2376)	(1641)	(1236)	(2417)	(1652)

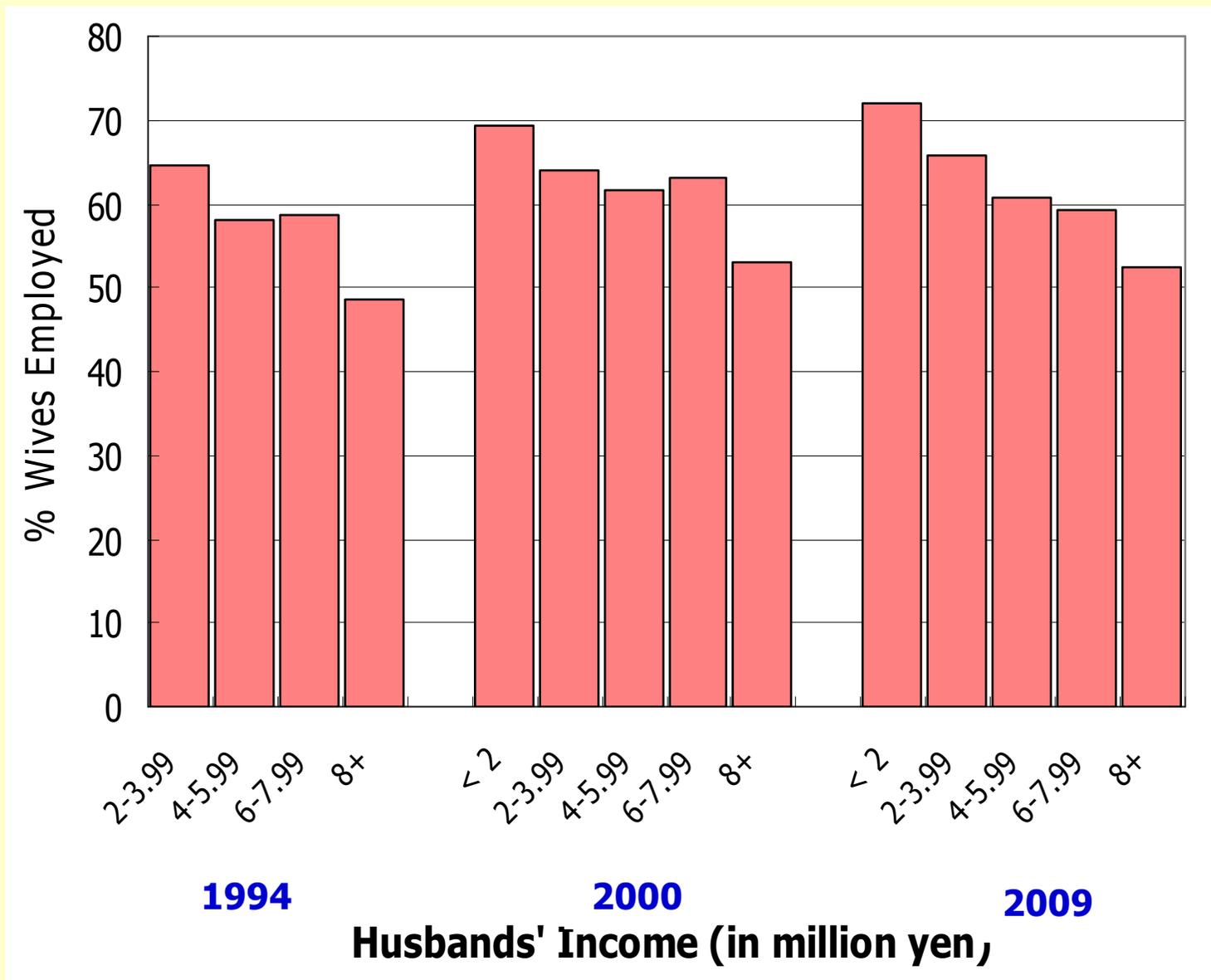
% of Wives Employed by Husbands' Employment Hours



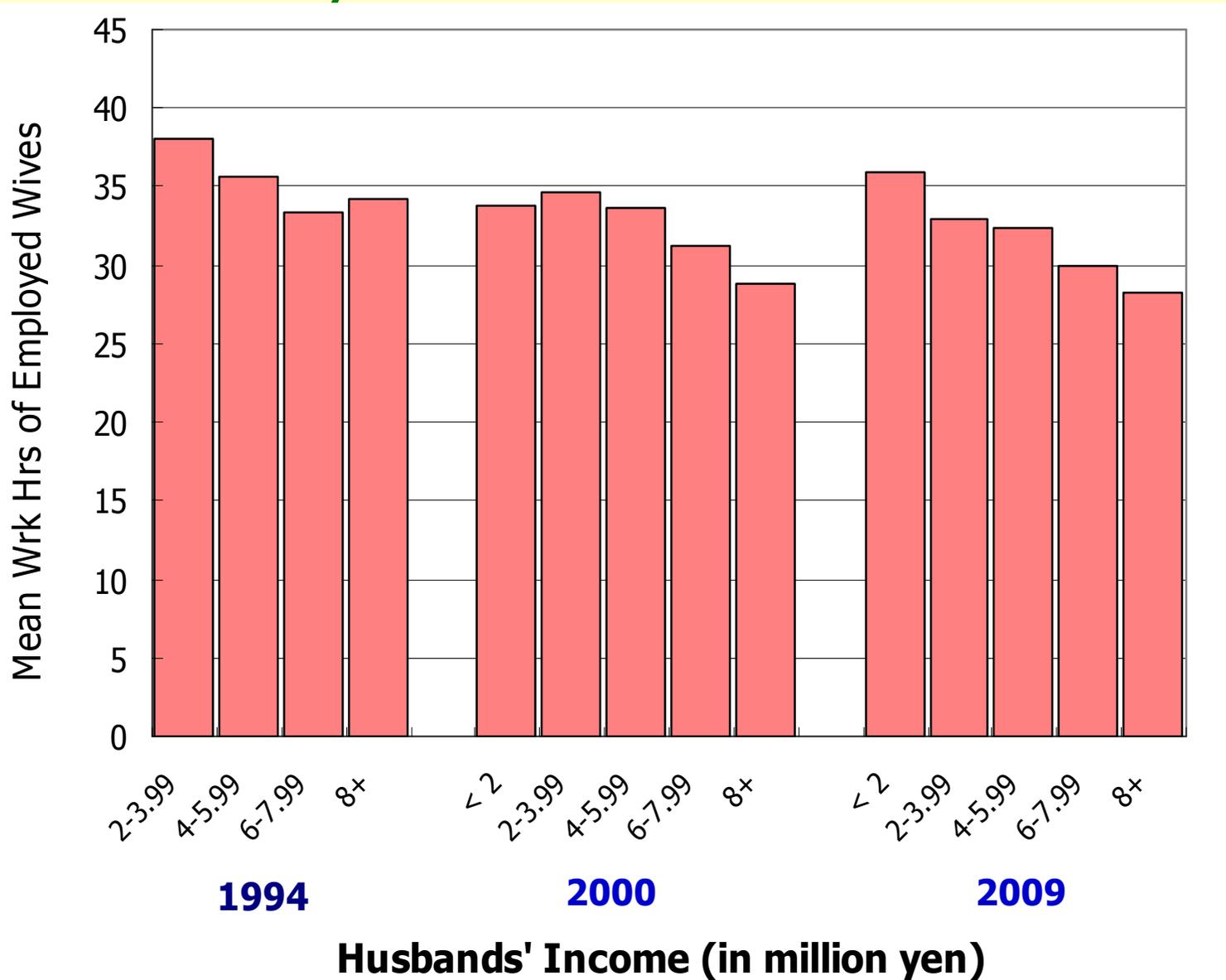
Mean Work Hours of Employed Wives by Husbands' Employment Hours



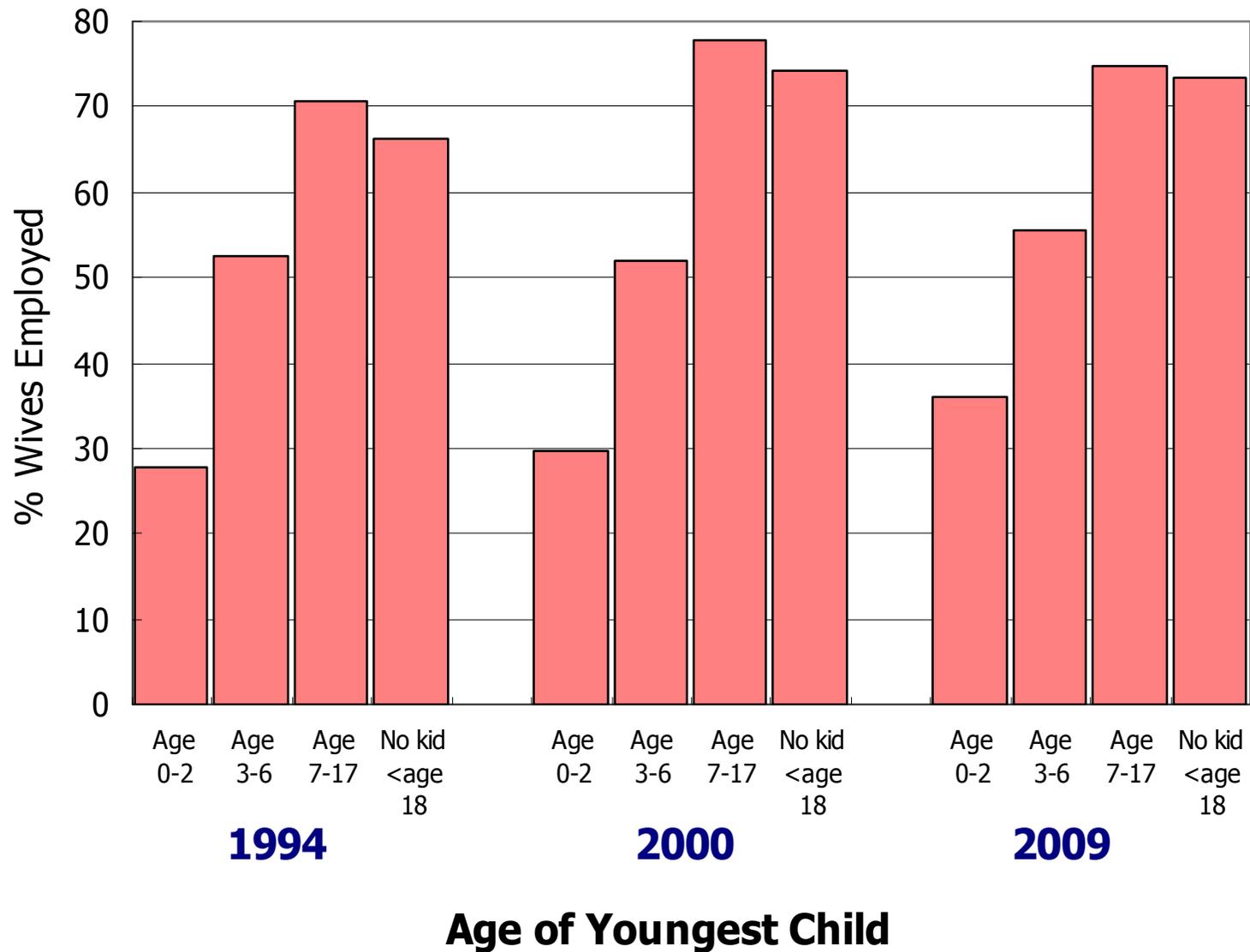
% of Wives Employed by Husbands' Income



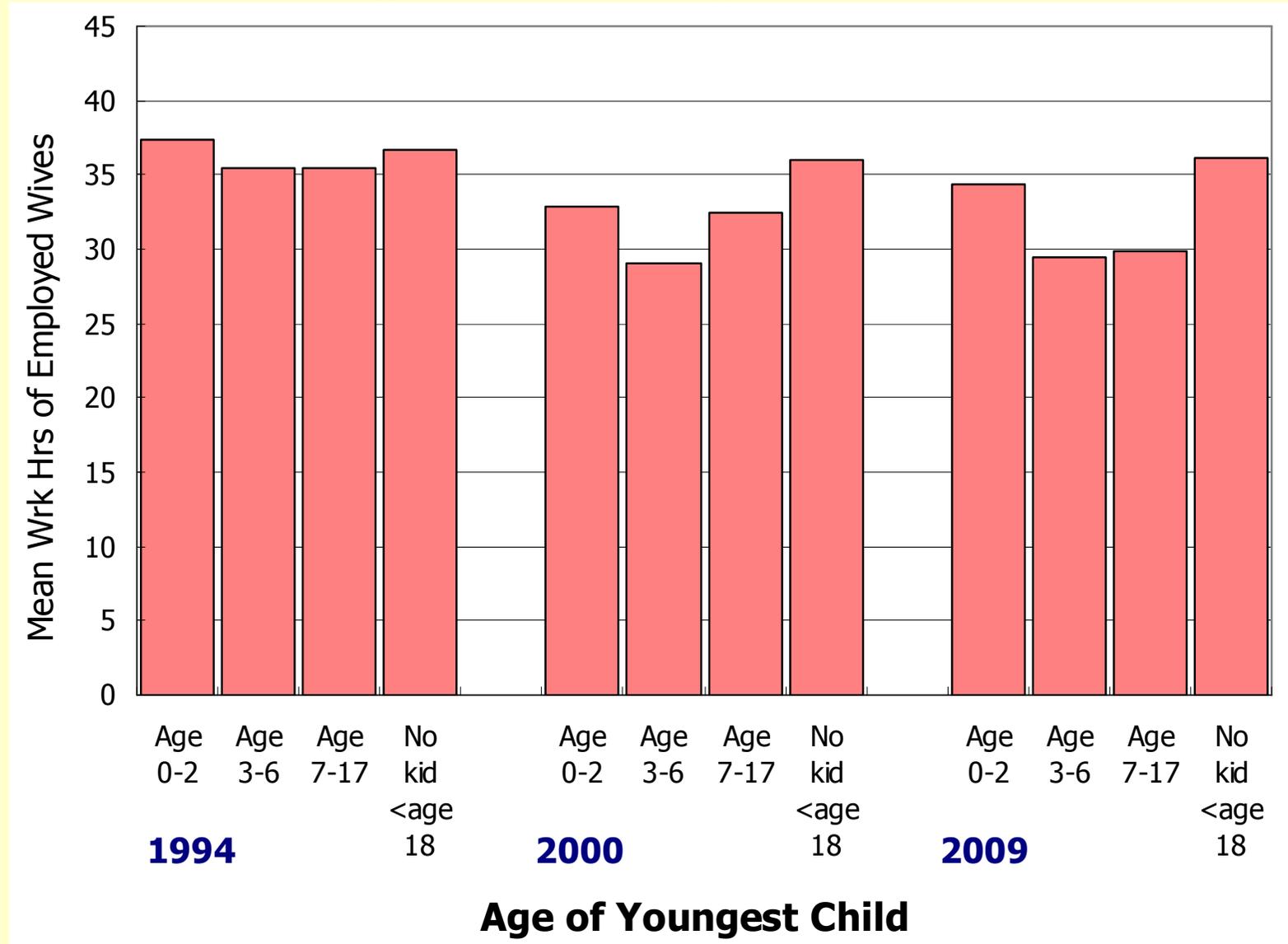
Mean Work Hours of Employed Wives by Husbands' Income



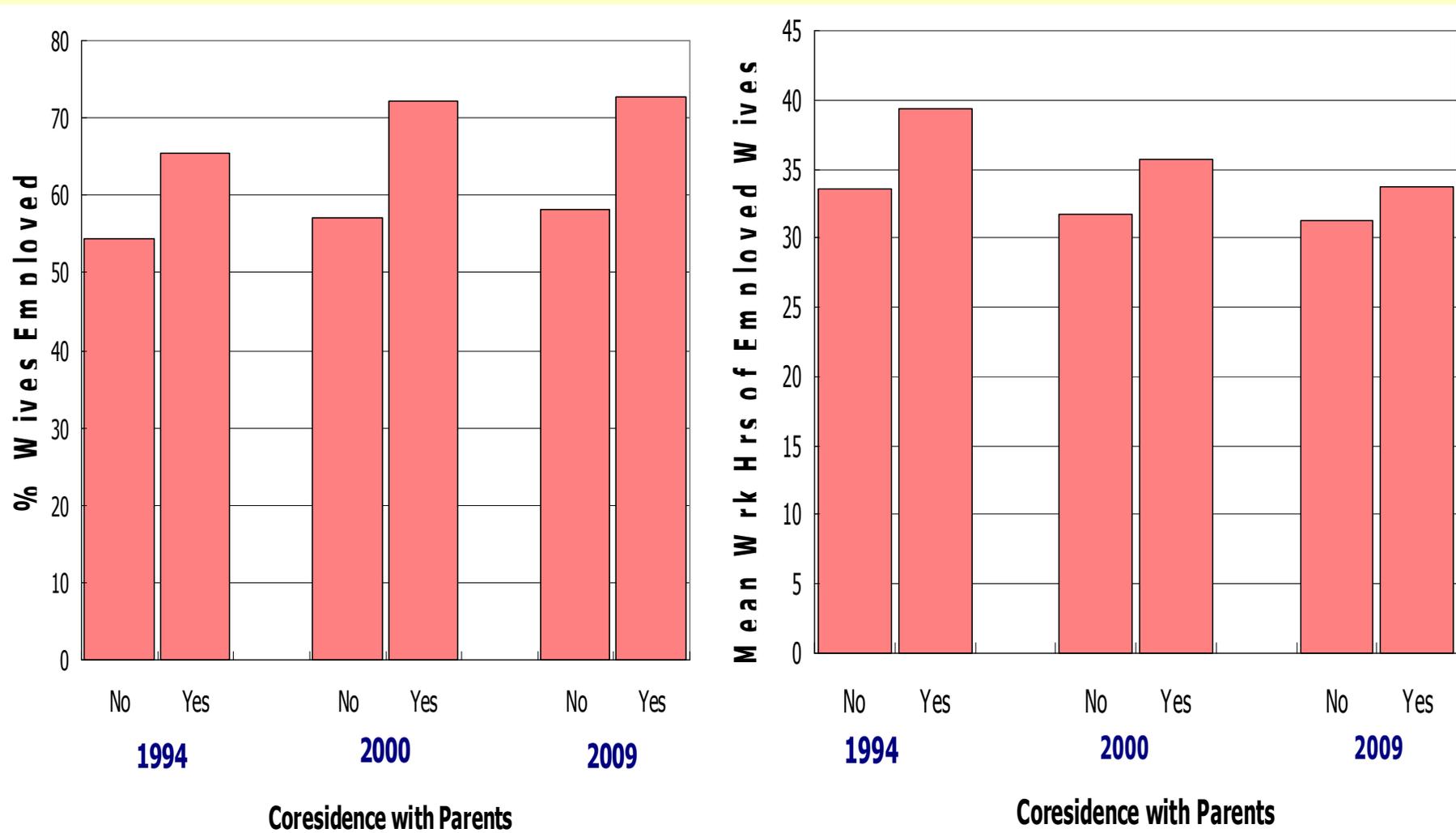
% of Wives Employed by Age of Youngest Child



Mean Work Hours of Employed Wives by Age of Youngest Child



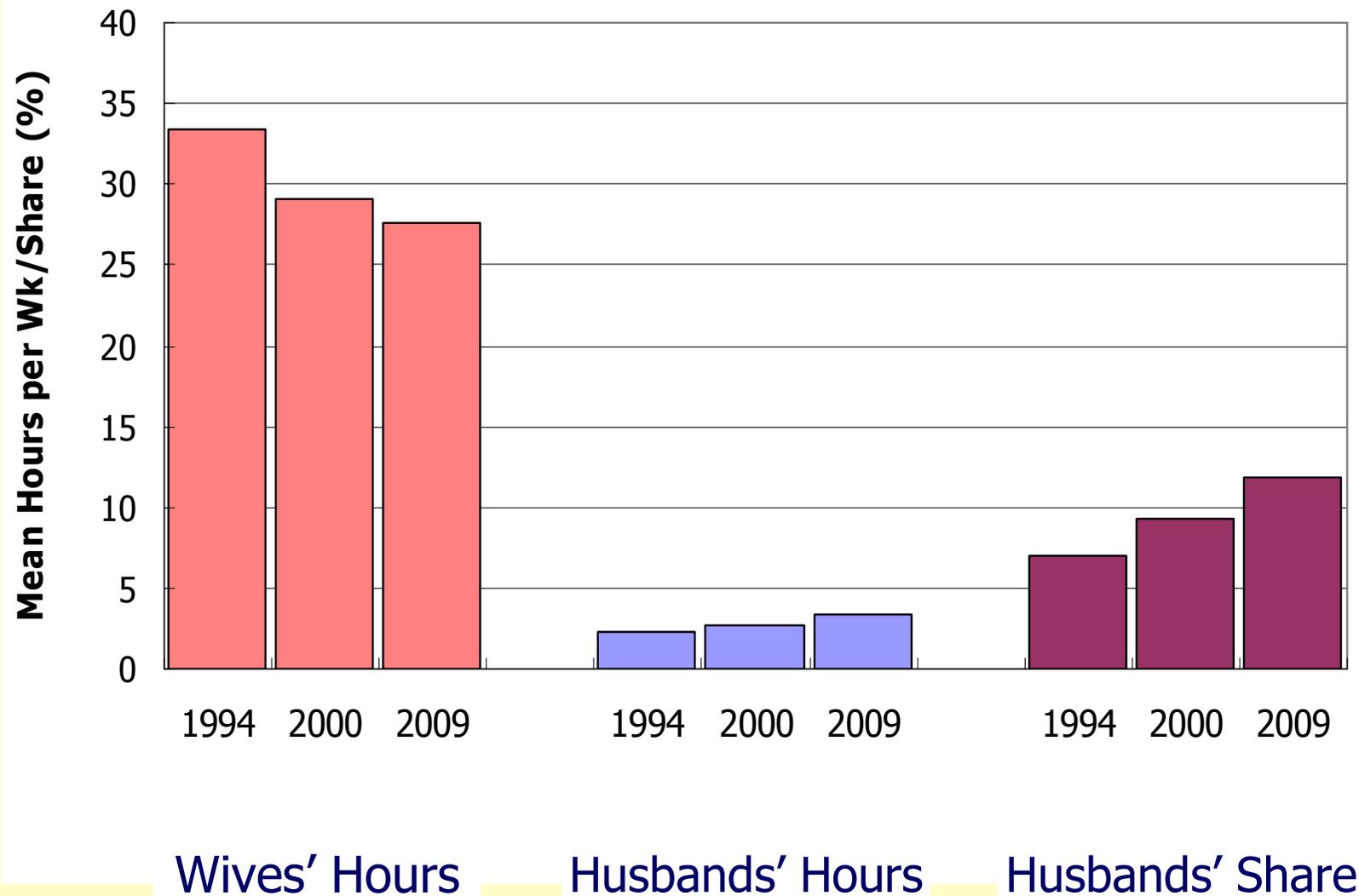
% of Wives Employed & Mean Work Hours of Employed Wives by Coresidence with Parents



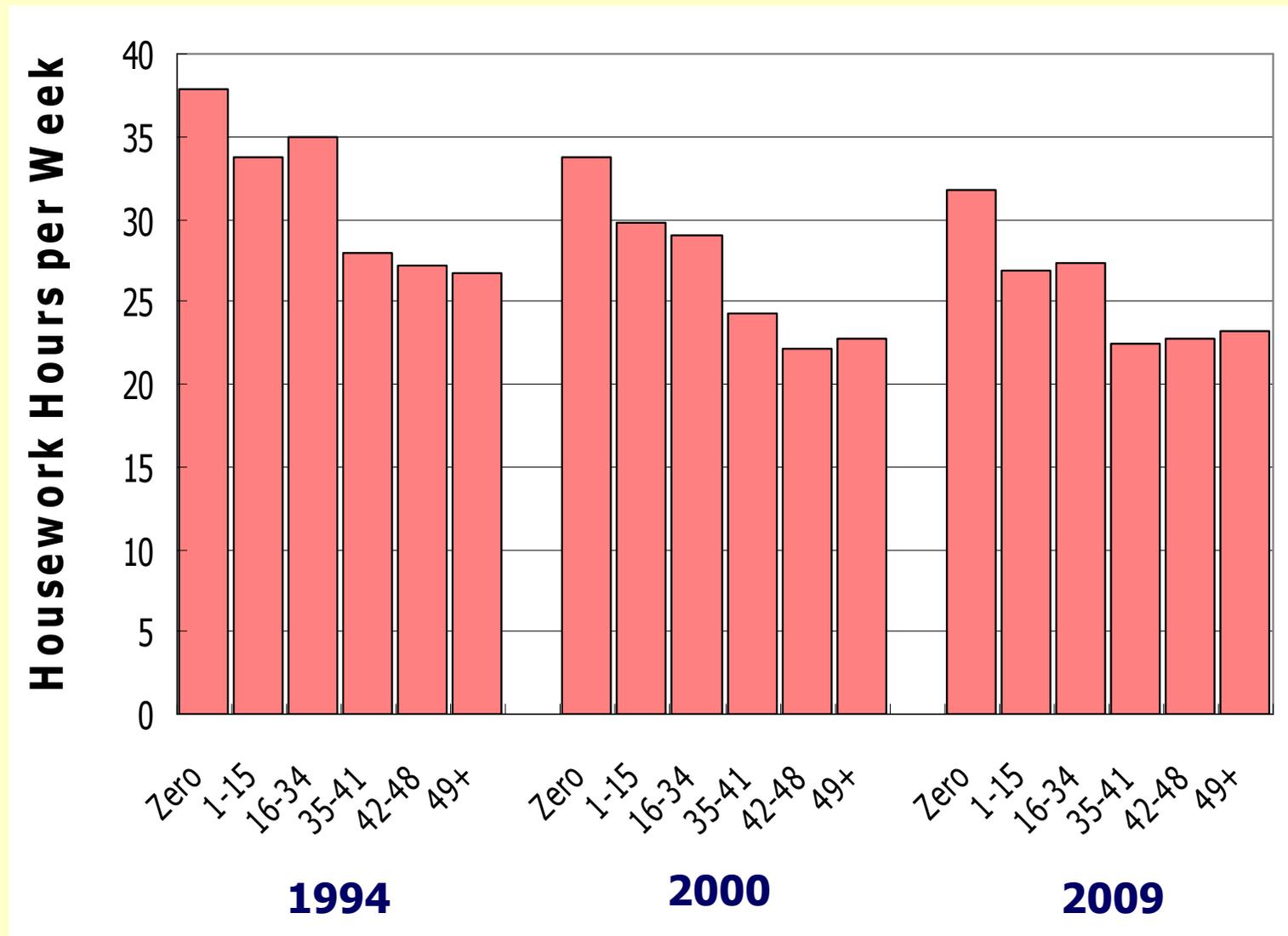
Couples' Housework Time & Employment Time

- (1) Mean Hours Spent on Housework & Husbands' Share in Couples' Housework Hours
- (2) Couples' Mean Housework Hours by Their Own & Their Spouse's Employment Hours

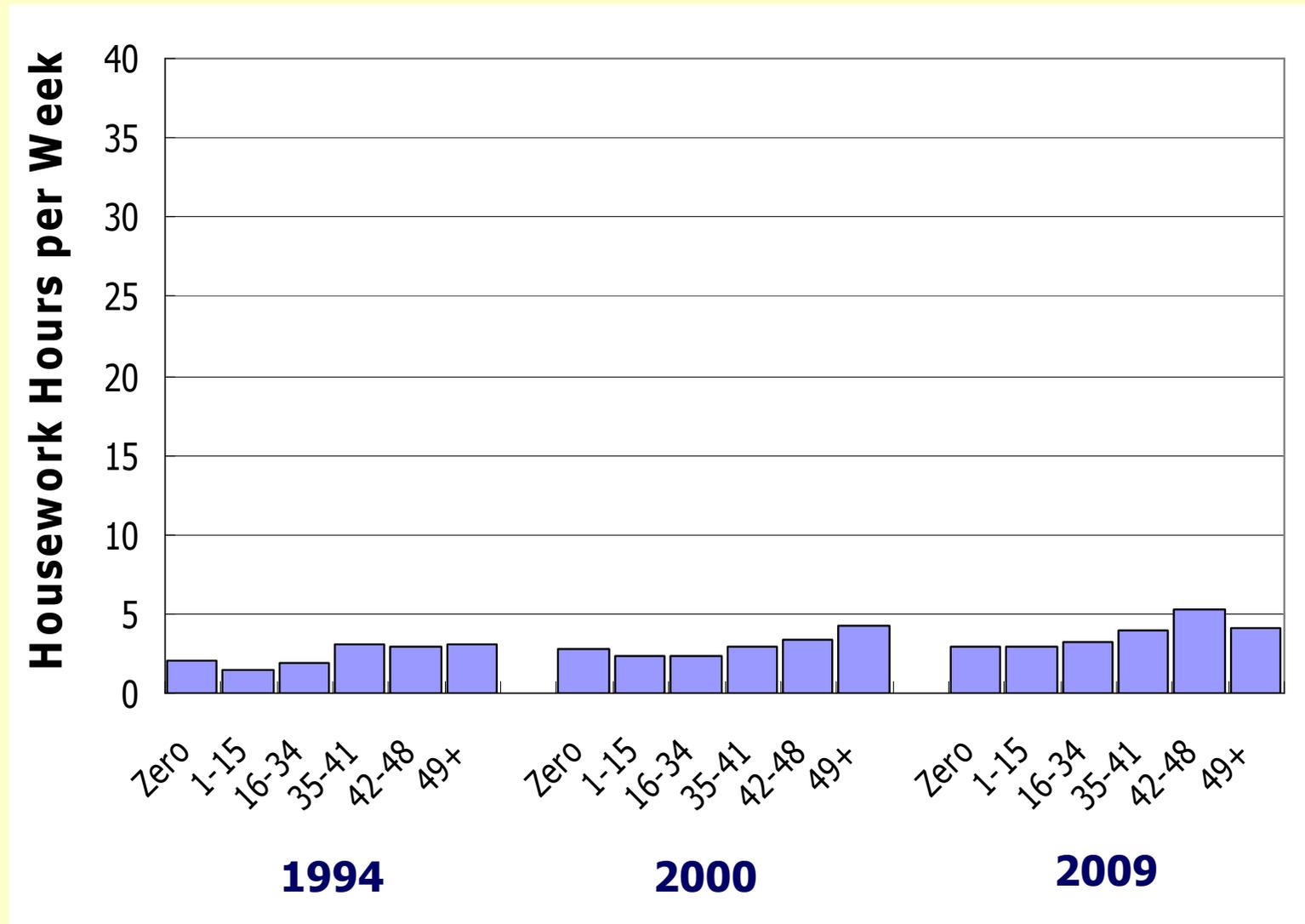
Couples' Mean Housework Hours & Husbands' Share in Housework



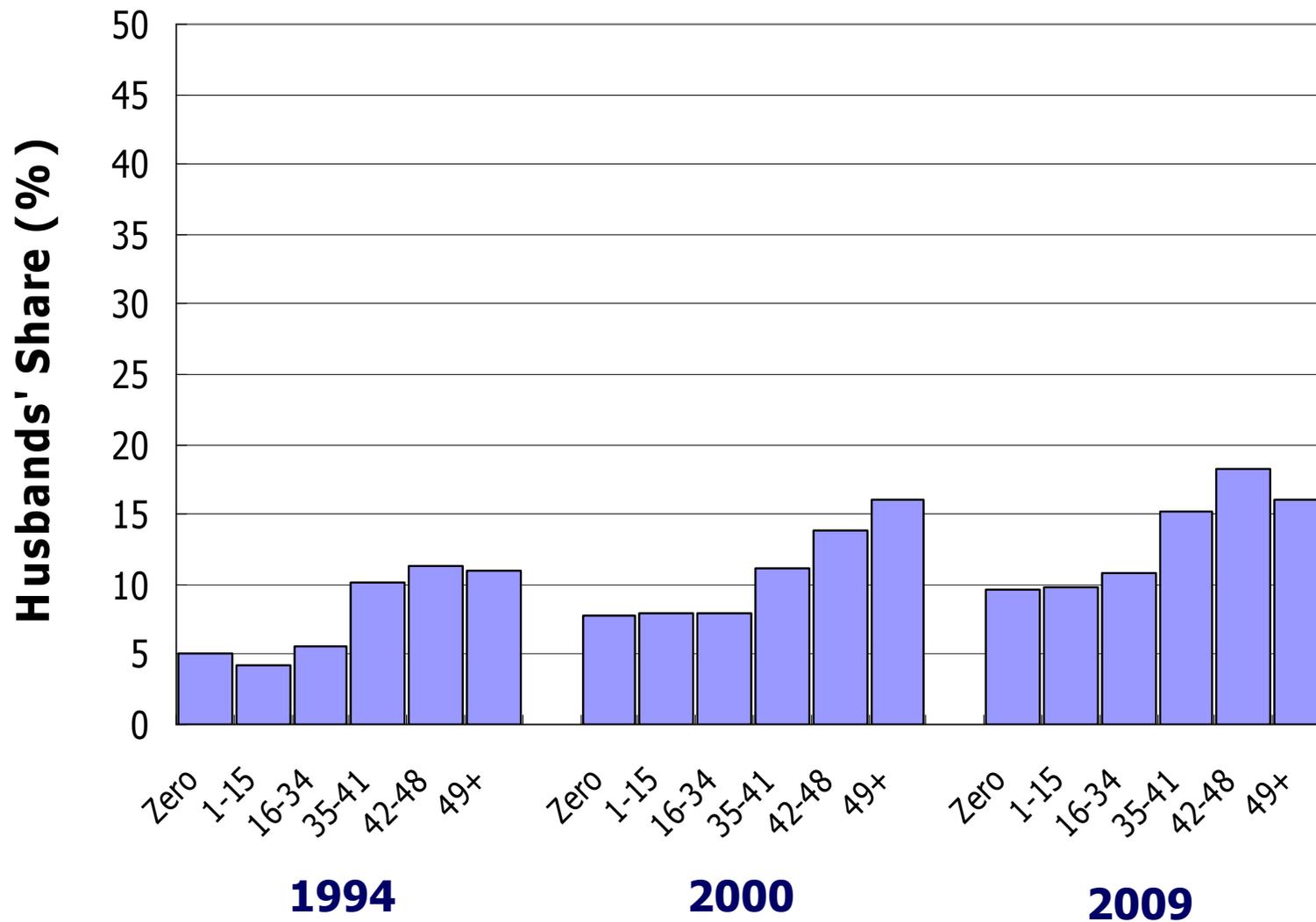
Wives' Mean Housework Hours by Their Own Employment Hours



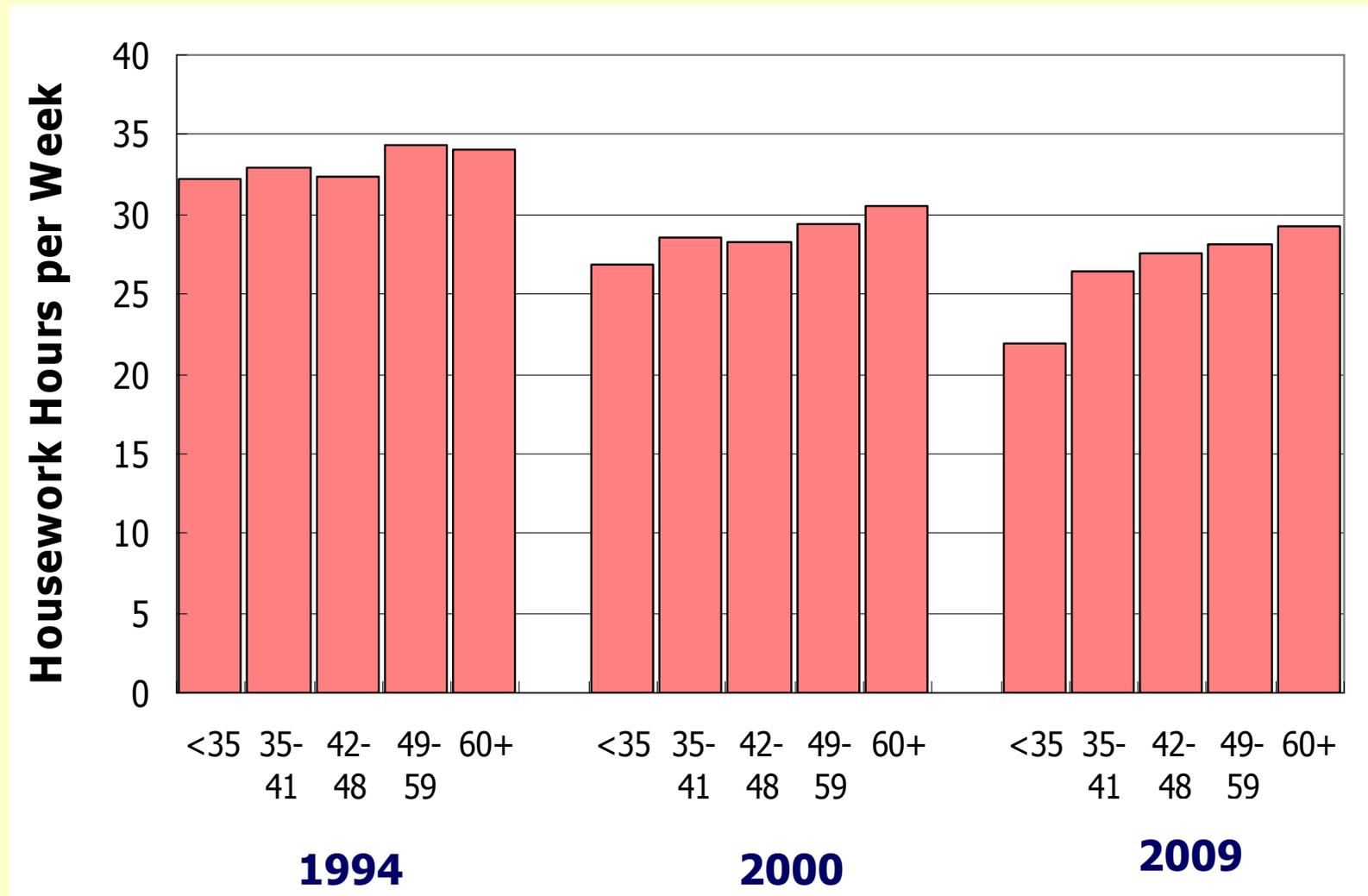
Husbands' Mean Housework Hours by Their Wife's Employment Hours



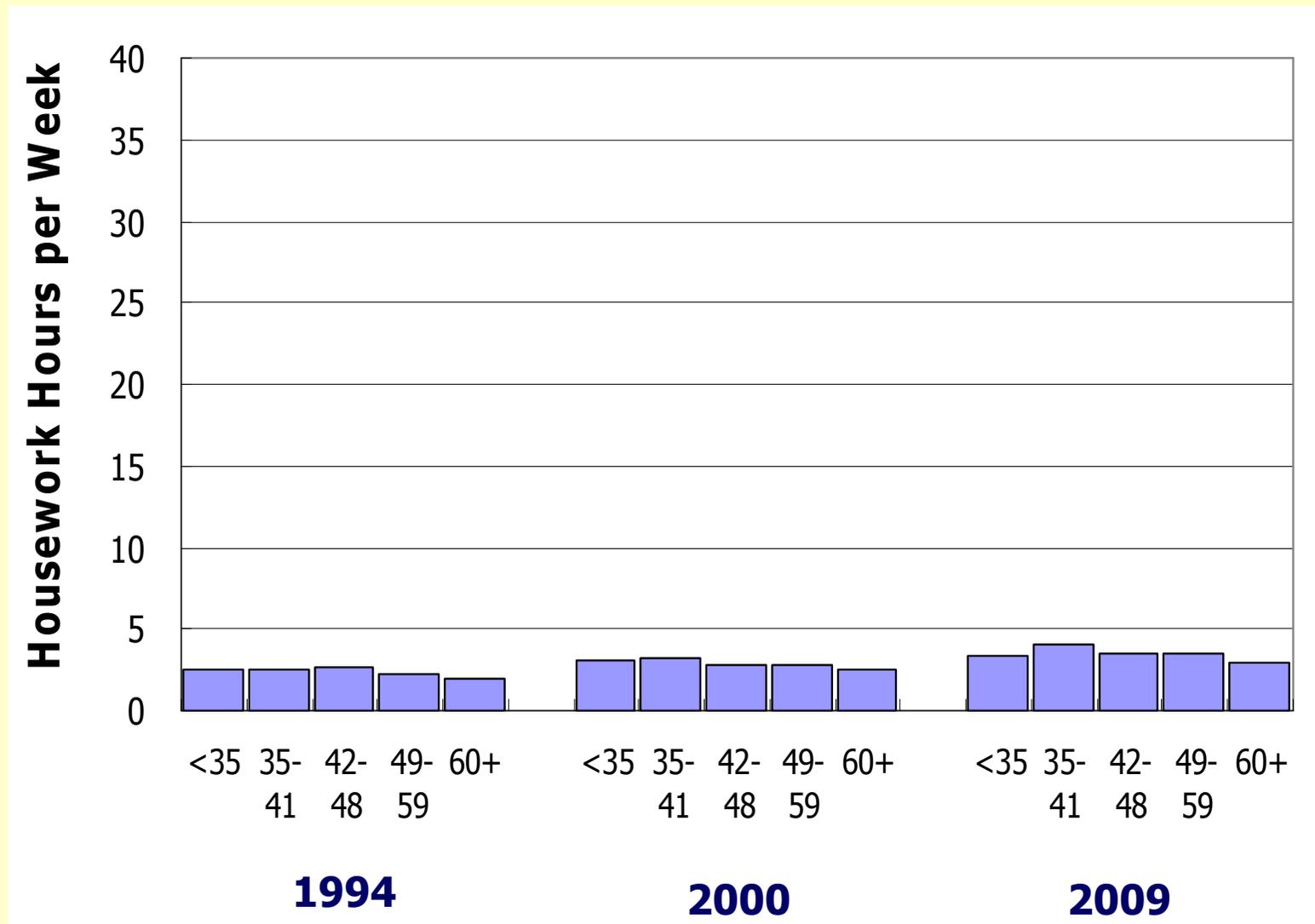
Husbands' Share (%) in Couples' Housework Time by Wives' Employment Hours



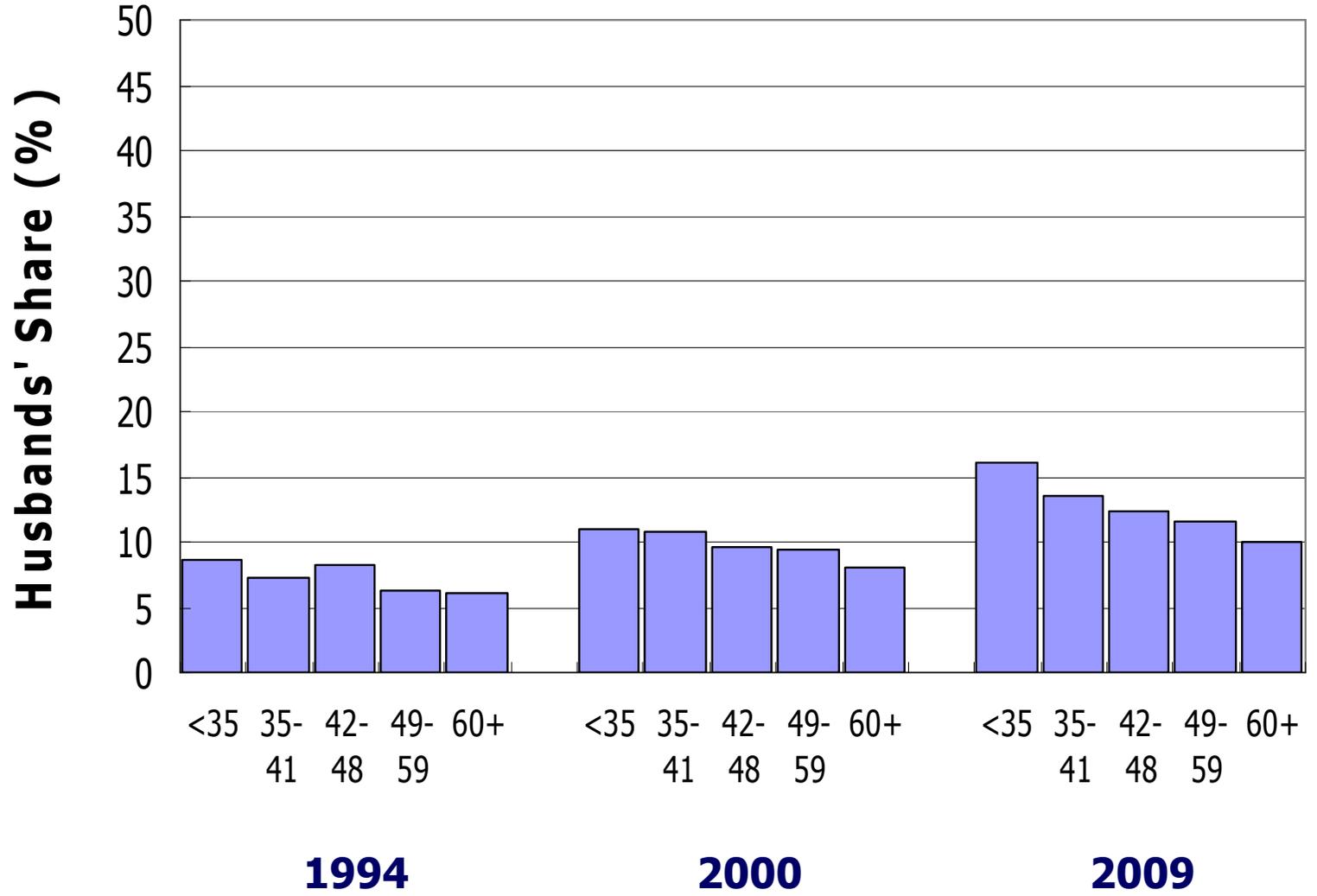
Wives' Mean Housework Hours by Their Husband's Employment Hours



Husbands' Mean Housework Hours by Their Own Employment Hours



Husbands' Share (%) in Couples' Housework Time by Husbands' Employment Hours



Marriage and Gendered Housework Time

- (1) Comparison of Never-married & Currently Married Women & Men in Housework Hours
- (2) Panel Changes in Mean Housework Hours by Marital Statuses in 2000 & 2009

% Distribution of Housework Hours of Never-married & Currently Married **Women**

Housework Time	1994		2000		2009	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
Zero	10	0	11	0	9	0
1-4 hours	23	1	39	4	38	3
5-9 hours	32	2	25	7	21	6
10-14 hrs	10	3	9	5	15	8
15-19 hrs	10	9	6	10	9	11
20-29 hrs	9	26	5	26	5	33
30-39 hrs	3	28	3	24	2	20
40-49 hrs	1	19	1	15	0	12
50+ hrs	1	12	1	9	1	7
Mean hours per week	10.3	33.4	7.9	28.8	8.0	27.4

% Distribution of Housework Hours of Never-married & Currently Married **Men**

Housework Time	1994		2000		2009	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
Zero	44	36	34	23	25	19
1-4 hours	32	47	44	54	46	57
5-9 hours	15	12	12	17	16	15
10+ hrs	9	5	9	5	13	9
Mean hours per week	3.4	2.5	3.4	3.2	4.1	3.6

Panel Changes from 2000 to 2009 in Mean Housework Hours of Women & Men, by Marital Statuses in 2000 & 2009

<i>Marital Status in 2000</i>	<i>Marital Status in 2009</i>	
	Never-married	Currently married
<i>Women</i>		
Never-married	3.1	17.9
Currently married	--	-1.1
<i>Men</i>		
Never-married	0.8	3.9
Currently married	--	1.0

Summary

- A vast majority of Japanese husbands work long hours in the labor-market.
- Employment rate of Japanese wives rose, but the mean work hrs of employed wives decreased in the late 1990s in the face of prolonged economic downturn.
- Wives' employment continued to be structured by their husband's earning power, & their family situation such as age of children and coresidence with parents.

Summary - Continued

- Housework time of Japanese husbands rose, but the absolute level of increase remains small.
- Japanese wives reduced their time on housework considerably, especially when they were employed full-time.
- Marriage brings about dramatic increases in housework time to women, but time men spend on housework did not change much by marrying.

Appendix

Men's Share in Housework & Childcare Time

Country/Year	Men's Share (%)
Japan	4
1976	4
1981	4
1986	5
1991	9
1996	11
2001	13
Korea	11
1987	11
1990	11
2004	15
Italy	19
1988-89	19
2002-03	23
Spain	18
1991	18
2002-03	25

Men's Share in Housework & Childcare Time

Country/Year	Men's Share (%)	
Norway	1972	16
	1980-81	24
	1990	37
	2000-01	39
Sweden	1990-91	38
	2000-01	40
U.K.	1961	12
	1975	16
	1986	28
	2000	35
U.S.A.	1965	19
	1975	25
	1985	33
	1995	34
	2003	36